



The Book of Romans

Tuesday Bible Study at St. John Lutheran Church

June 23: Slaves of Righteousness

Romans 6:15-23

“But if grace becomes ever greater when sin increases, cannot one then continue to sin? Then the grace will be evermore greater! Paul knows that this question is coming. Surely, he has heard it many times. And he rejects it as unreasonable. If a man asks in this manner, then he has not understood anything of salvation and righteousness from God. It is just this that one cannot do if one comes to faith.” – Bo Giertz

How do our sins enslave us?

Why do we often justify our more personal sins (covetousness, pride, bitterness, unforgiveness, grumbling)?

Romans 6:15-16

Do we get to God through our good deeds (works of the law)?

Are we free to engage in our preferred sins because we are not under the law?

“The Holy Spirit does not permit sin to have dominion, to gain the upper hand so it can be carried out, but represses and restrains it from doing what it wants [Psalm 51:11; Romans 6:14]. If sin does what it wants, the Holy Spirit and faith are not present.”

- The Smalcald Articles

What are the two options for our slavery?

“No man can be his own lord. We stand in the midst of a fight between good and evil, where one must be on one side or another. Either one has sin as his lord, which will lead to death, or one is subject to obedience.” – Bo Giertz

Does it surprise you that he uses the word “obedience”?

Romans 1:5 Through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations.

Romans 6:17-18

For what is Paul thankful?

What does freedom look like for Paul?

2 Corinthians 10:5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.

Romans 6:19

In what terms is Paul speaking? What does this mean?

^{NKJV} **Romans 6:19** I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh.

What *members* does Paul have in mind?

1 Corinthians 6:15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never!

What happens when we present our members as slaves to righteousness?

Romans 6:20-21

What kind of freedom does Paul condemn?

What is the fruit of sin?

Romans 6:22-23

What does it mean to be a slave of God? What are the benefits?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

What are the wages of sin? What is the free gift of God?